

Levy protests delay of Bonn aid

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has protested at a German decision to delay more than a billion dollars in aid to Israel until it shows more flexibility in peace efforts, Israeli newspapers have reported. The *Mosadet* and *Jerusalem Post* newspapers said Monday and Tuesday that Mr. Levy wrote to his German counterpart Mr. Heinz-Dietrich Genscher accusing Bonn of trying to pressure Israel which is frustrated by its failure to come to an Arab-Israel peace conference. Foreign ministry sources would neither confirm nor deny the reports. Unidentified sources told the Post that the bulk of Levy's message was designed to embarrass the minister and the German government. Mr. Levy was said to be furious at the decision. "Mr. Levy said the delay was not in line with Germany's commitment" to Israel following World War II, the Post reported. U.S. President George Bush has hinted that U.S. help for absorbing an influx of Soviet Jews could hinge on whether Israel halts settlement, which Washington sees as obstructing peace. Last March, Mr. Levy said Germany would give Israel substantial grants and loans to ease its struggle to settle the newcomers arriving under Soviet emigration reforms.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SERIALS DIVISION
N.Y.G.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Stragglers keep up Soviet flood

TEL AVIV (AP) — About 2,300 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel in the past 24 hours, stragglers from a weekend rush that boosted the number of immigrants in June to a record for the year, officials said Tuesday. More than 6,500 Soviet Jews landed last weekend before a new Soviet immigration law took effect, bringing the number of June arrivals to 20,473, according to the Jewish Agency responsible for transporting immigrants. Yehuda Weinraub, spokesman for the agency, said the flood of immigrants was motivated by Soviet Jews who wanted to leave before the law became effective July 1 requiring all exiting Soviets to have passports. He explained Monday's influx of 2,300 Soviets as "the backlog of those who left before the first of the month" and had been waiting in Europe to reach Israel. Israeli officials have said they fear the law may slow Jewish emigration as many other Soviets seek to leave, but Mr. Weinraub said he "could not predict the future."

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King receives Moroccan message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received Mr. Abdoul Hadi Boutaleb, director general of the Islamic Organisation for Education, Culture and Science. Mr. Boutaleb conveyed to the King a message from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern. On Monday night, His Majesty King Hussein exchanged views with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latest developments in the region and the efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problems.

Arab League chief to visit Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

CAIRO (R) — Arab League Secretary General Esmael Abdelf Meguid plans to visit Syria, Lebanon and Jordan from July 19 in an attempt to close Arab ranks, league sources said. Mr. Abdelf Meguid, a former Egyptian foreign minister unanimously elected secretary general in May, has already toured Gulf states to try and end bitterness after the Gulf war.

Chinese premier arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Egypt Tuesday at the start of six-country Middle East tour. Officials said Mr. Li's talks with Egyptian leaders were expected to focus on post-Gulf war security, attempts to bring Arabs and Israelis together for peace talks as well as arms control. After four days in Egypt, the Chinese premier, accompanied by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, will go to Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Nathan 'plans' to visit Syria, Jordan and Yemen

TEL AVIV (AP) — Peace crusader Abie Nathan, already under fire for meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, now plans to talk to officials in Syria, Jordan and Yemen, an Israeli daily said Tuesday. Mr. Nathan announced the plans in an interview Monday from Tunis where he has been conferring with Mr. Arafat, the daily *Yediot Ahronoth* said. The 64-year-old Nathan said he asked Mr. Arafat to help him get visas to the Arab countries and would only visit with an official invitation, the paper said.

Qaddafi seeks to heal Egypt-Sudan rift

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi flew in Tuesday from Khartoum on a one-day visit to try and mediate sour relations between Egypt and Sudan. President Hosni Mubarak greeted Colonel Qaddafi at Cairo international airport. The two leaders then headed for the port of Alexandria by train, a presidency official said. Col. Qaddafi said Monday in Khartoum his Cairo visit would be to follow up on a wish by Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir to mend fences with his powerful neighbour to the north. "There are positive moves currently underway," Col. Qaddafi told reporters in Sudan.

Arafat gets help from Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that Algeria has agreed to help open a dialogue with the Lebanese government and appealed to Egypt and Libya "to help end the new massacre of Palestinians." Following a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, Mr. Arafat announced that Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi had been charged with "helping to open a dialogue with the Lebanese government... in concert with the Syrian and Lebanese parties." The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported that Mr. Arafat has sent an urgent message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, visiting Cairo, "to help end the new massacre of Palestinians in southern Lebanon."

Lebanese army takes control of southern areas after fierce battles

SIDON (Agencies) — The Lebanese army Tuesday pushed out Palestinian fighters from hilltop outposts and forced them back into refugee camps, a key step in reestablishing government control over unruly South Lebanon.

A police spokesman said two army officers were killed and 60 people wounded in the nine-hour battle with fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who were dug into three hilltop villages east of Sidon. Half of the wounded were civilians, police said.

The army on Monday had moved into Sidon, the provincial capital 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and met only scattered resistance.

The fighters now are encircled in the Ain Al Hilweh and Michi Mich camps on Sidon's eastern edge.

Defence Minister Michel Murr, who announced completion of the army deployment on state-

run radio, said the fighters would not be pursued into the camps, home to about 60,000 refugees.

"No, the army would not enter the camps," Mr. Murr promised.

By late afternoon the army controlled almost all main roads in the area but the PLO held on to bases in ravines and olive groves. Troops rushed to cut guerrilla supply lines before dark.

Security sources and witnesses said the troops, supported by tanks and armoured cars, was in control of the villages of Ain Al Dinh, Jinsmayna, Baisour, Mjeideh and Qrayeh.

An estimated 6,000 PLO fighters have regrouped in South Lebanon since 1983, when Syrian troops and Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents drove the PLO from its bases in northern Lebanon.

Before that, in 1982, invading Israeli forces had uprooted the PLO from the south and Beirut, then the organisation's Middle East power base.

The PLO had said it would not hinder the Lebanese army's deployment here under a 1989 Arab League-brokered peace accord.

But by restricting fighters to the camps, the government of President Elias Hrawi apparently hopes to end attacks from Lebanon on Israel and get Western support for removing Israel from the border strip it has occupied since 1978.

Israel has refused to withdraw from a 1,100-square-kilometre self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

In Ain Al Dinh and Qrayeh, snipers continued to fire after the army took the villages. Houses and cars smouldered while fires burned out of control in woods and terraced fields.

Fighting was within earshot of Israeli forces and their militia ally the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the town of Jezzine and in the "security zone" they hold along the border.

Hospital sources said the 19

Lebanese army control over every inch of Lebanese territory."

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Statements issued from the PLO headquarters in Tunis on Tuesday pleaded with Lebanese officials to "start political discussions."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in an interview published in the London-based *Middle East Mirror* newsletter, said that Lebanese sovereignty could be reconciled with the Palestinians' cause.

The PLO, he said, was seeking "an agreement to preserve the security of the camps, maintain the Palestinian gun for resistance against Israeli occupation and, at the same time, preserve Lebanese sovereignty and

(Continued on page 5)

Bush threatens to go public with peace plan

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush has threatened to go public with his thus-far confidential Middle East peace formula if he is unable to get Arabs and Israelis to attend a peace conference.

At a press conference at his oceanside vacation home here Monday, he also took a tough line on the contentious matter of Israeli settlements on the occupied Arab territories, saying: "We're not giving one inch on the settlements questions."

Senior U.S. officials have said that option has been discussed but Mr. Bush refused to say if it was something he might seriously consider.

So far, Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have been quite secretive in their diplomacy, a strategy designed to make it easier for historic enemies to compromise.

But Mr. Bush told reporters:

"At some point I think I owe the

American people my view of the details I'm not willing to discuss right now, and that wouldn't bother me one bit, to get up and say here's what we've been trying to do."

"I think there's a lot of people wondering what in the world is going on and I've invoked quiet diplomacy and the need for confidentiality, but I can't do that forever. I just simply can't do it. I owe it to the American people, and I think the people around the world to say, hey, here's what the United States thinks is a good formula," he added.

Mr. Bush said there was no deadline by which he might act.

As it pursued its new peace initiative following the Gulf war, the United States has stepped up pressure on Israel to halt the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even on Tuesday, Housing

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Yugoslav truce shattered

OTOCEN, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Federal forces launched air and artillery raids Tuesday in Slovenia, knocking out communications and fighting pitched battles with rebel troops along the borders of the breakaway republic.

Jets screamed overhead and fired into the ground, and black smoke from burning trucks clouded the sky as a federal armoured unit tried to burst through a Slovene blockade to free another unit pinned down by Slovene fire.

The trapped tank unit tried to move through an encirclement of Slovene forces when the two sides began trading fire before dawn, witnesses said.

The army said seven troops were killed and 13 were wounded in the clash in the Krakovski forest, near Otocek not far from the Croatian border. Associated Press reporter John Daniszewski counted one dead and two wounded among the federal troops that went to the aid of trapped soldiers.

Slovenia's Information Ministry reported militiamen and federal soldiers were killed but

gave no figures. The republic's radio said there were "many victims."

Fighting later broke out on Slovenia's northern border with Austria at the Radgona crossing, where the two sides exchanged fire and a federal tank fired rounds at the rebels.

Austrian police also told the AP that there was shooting at Slovenia's Sventi border with Austria.

The Austrian Press Association issued Austrian police officials as saying that federal military planes were dropping bombs near another border post near Dravograd.

Yugoslavia's federal army reported fighting at Slovenia's western border with Italy.

Three members of the eight-member collective presidency — representing Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia — issued a statement on Slovenian radio calling for an immediate halt to the fighting and the release of all prisoners.

It was unclear if the federal army or the Slovenian militias would end the conflict.

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The army said Tuesday it had seized weapons caches at several mosques and reported four deaths, 44 injuries and 340 arrests in the latest clashes with Muslim fundamentalists.

By official count, nearly 1,100 people, including the two senior leaders of the fundamentalist movement, have been arrested in a three-day crackdown aimed at quashing anti-government protests and agitation.

A military communiqué issued at midday said rifles, pistols and ammunition were found at four mosques in different communities.

During the preceding 24 hours, it said, a soldier and three civilians were killed and 44 people wounded. Since early June, more than 40 people have died in the unrest and more than 350 have been reported injured.

The communiqué did not specify the locations of the latest violence. But witnesses said trouble broke out in the western city of Mostaganem after dawa prayers, when calls for a holy war echoed through loudspeakers.

Fundamentalist supporters

burned tyres at several locations in the city, the army took control of key intersections, and shots were fired, the witnesses said.

In Algiers, armoured vehicles and tanks were withdrawn from some intersections, and soldiers surrounding the main opposition group's headquarters were released by police.

Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghali said Abassi Madani, president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and FIS Vice-President Ali Benhadj will have to "answer for their actions" in court. They were arrested Sunday for calling for the holy war and spearheading violent protests.

A military communiqué Monday accused Mr. Madani, 60, and Mr. Benhadj, 37, with "fomenting, organising and carrying out an armed conspiracy against the security of the state."

The FIS has been at the forefront of violent protests since the beginning of June. The front opposed laws governing legislative elections scheduled June 27, and demanded early presidential elections.

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Algeria turmoil persists

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Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

Businessman says he is target of defamation campaign

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian businessman has refuted allegations of clandestine deals and is preparing to sue *Time* magazine for libel for making "unfounded charges" that he was trying to swindle Lloyds of London through insurance claims.

"What *Time* has written about me and my business is totally untrue and I intend to take legal action against the magazine," the businessman, Mr. Munther Bilbeisi, told the Jordan Times.

"There is little doubt that I am targeted in a concerted campaign aimed at discrediting

me, and *Time* has allowed itself to be used as a tool in the campaign to discredit me," he said. "But I am not going to take it lying down. I intend to fight back."

Mr. Bilbeisi declined to say where he intended to launch the legal proceedings but revealed that he would be seeking \$100 million in damages from *Time*.

"For all practical purposes the drive against me is aimed at avoiding settling my insurance claims," Mr. Bilbeisi asserted.

The *Time* article, which appeared in the magazine's June 24 issue, says that Mr. Bilbeisi was involved in arms deals with South Africa and Latin America and in smuggling

coffee worth \$35 million into the U.S. in violation of tariff agreements.

The article also states that

Mr. Bilbeisi had filed insurance claims with Lloyds of London for "alleged theft" — a house burglary, as the Jordanian businessman puts it — and "commercial losses on an unconfirmed coffee shipment."

Other charges levelled against Mr. Bilbeisi include bribery to American officials and collusion with the Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCCI), which is under indictment in the U.S. for alleged money-laundering.

"The magazine has not only hurt my reputation as an honest businessman, but also sought to undermine my marriage," Mr. Bilbeisi said, referring to a

(Continued on page 5)

Munther Bilbeisi</p

Hamas renews terms for joining PNC; PLO says it is open only to 'suggestions'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic fundamentalist movement, Hamas, has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to drop its 1988 peace strategy and to accept direct elections of members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) as two conditions to be met before Hamas would join the organisation, according to Hamas' officials in Amman.

"These are our two major preconditions to join the PNC," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, a senior Hamas official, in an interview with the Jordan Times.

In an initial reaction to the call, a senior PLO official said that the organisation would accept the principle of direct elections of PNC members in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if Israel authorised such a step.

"If any party can convince Israel to hold such elections it is more than welcome," PLO Executive Committee member Mohamad Milhem said.

But he indicated that even though the PLO welcomed Hamas' participation it will not accept preconditions that might undermine the organisation.

"The floor is open for all Palestinian groups to put forward ideas that they believe can serve the Palestinian national interests," he said. "But we do not accept preconditions that aim at undermining PLO institutions."

Mt. Milhem said that Hamas would be able to make its suggestions and proposals at the meetings of a preparatory committee of the PNC which will be held in the near future.

PLO officials said that all Palestinian groups were invited to take part in the preparatory com-

mittee meetings.

Mr. Ghosheh confirmed that PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh had sent an invitation to Hamas to attend a meeting of the council's preparatory committee. "We are still considering the invitation but we remain committed to our conditions," he said.

Hamas was established in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip shortly after the eruption of the Palestinian uprising (Intifada) four years ago.

From the very beginning it has rallied support on the basis of rejection of talks with Israel and called for the liberation of all Palestine, including Israel proper. It has rejected the 1988 PLO peace strategy, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, and has urged the organisation to drop the plan.

Although it is difficult to accurately assess the strength of Hamas, it has emerged as a very influential movement, especially in the Gaza Strip.

This week Mr. Ghosheh, who is based in Amman, said that the movement did not accept the present PNC structure and demanded free and direct elections to allow a fair and proportionate representation of Palestinians everywhere.

"We cannot accept the present structure of the PNC; it will have to change," he said, adding that there should be quotas to determine the number of seats for Palestinians in each country and the occupied territories that corresponds to their numbers.

Hamas, which had conveyed its conditions to the PLO, proposed that such elections should be supervised by the United Nations.

They argue that Hamas' influence and consequently its political line should be translated in the PLO decision-making institutions if the movement is to join the organisation.

Last year Hamas demanded 40



Mohammad Milhem

per cent of the 380-member PNC seats as a precondition to take part in the council.

Israel's proposal to elect an alternative Palestinian leadership. Furthermore, such elections in other countries could be proved to be an unrealistic proposal.

Mr. Milhem said that the PLO was not ready to endorse any proposal that will violate the laws and regulations of Arab countries where Palestinians live.

"Each Arab country has its own laws and regulations. We are not ready to take any step that might violate these laws or encroach upon the sovereignty of these Arab countries," Mr. Milhem asserted.

Many PLO officials believe that Hamas has not dropped its objective of trying to undermine the organisation or take over the Palestinian movement.

Hamas officials admit, that they believe that direct elections will ensure the Islamic movement's domination of the PLO. "If these elections are held we expect to get 40 to 50 per cent of the PNC seats," Mr. Ghosheh contended.

The Islamic official reiterated his movement's rejection of any peace talks with Israel and renewed its demands that the PLO drop its peace plan.

"We believe that the current peace proposals aim at guaranteeing the interests and the security of the Jewish entity and the normalisation of relations between the Jewish state and the Arab countries without any territorial concessions," he argued.

Mr. Milhem said that Hamas was welcome to raise its concerns and try to make amendments provided that the aim was not to create an alternative PLO.

"Amendments and adjustments are possible but attempts to form another PLO are just unacceptable," he stressed.

Differences continue to plague Afghan rebels

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (R) — A minister in the Afghan guerrilla government resigned Tuesday saying he could no longer work with people secretly talking to the Soviet-backed administration in Kabul.

Faroq Azam, education minister in the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), told a news conference he had been forced to quit by its failure to hold elections in Afghanistan and links between guerrilla leaders and Afghan President Najibullah.

He told reporters the leader of his National Islamic Front, Mr. Ahmad Gailani, and AIG President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi had privately acknowledged meeting Mr. Najibullah.

"Since Mr. Gailani has developed close links and spheres of cooperation with Mr. Najibullah ... I cannot support him in pursuing such policies, which are, I consider, against the interests of Jihad (holy war) and the party itself."

National Islamic Front sources acknowledge in private that Mr. Gailani met Mr. Najibullah in Geneva last year, but the talks have always been officially denied.

Mujahideen guerrilla leaders publicly reject any idea of negotiating with the Kabul government, but both sides in the 13-year-old war say there are unofficial contacts.

The AIG was created in Pakistan in 1989 after the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but was swiftly damaged by factional fighting an failure to start an election process.

In January, the AIG sacked most of its staff because of a shortage of funds, keeping only the health and education ministries working in camps housing most of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The defferences among the various Afghan rebel groups have also blocked agreement on another key issue.

The leader of Iran-based Afghan guerrillas said Monday he was returning to Tehran after failing to reach agreement with Pakistan-based guerrillas on a rebel commission.

But Wahdat-e-Islami party leader Rehmatullah Mortazvi told a news conference he would return 25 days later to resume talks on the issue as well as on a United Nations plan for a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

Mr. Mortazvi said his party, grouping eight Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla groups in Iran, was seeking a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

The reports also said that independence-seeking Eritreans have agreed to cooperate with Addis Ababa.

The second day of the national conference on Ethiopia's transitional government opened with the formal presentation by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of the draft government charter.

The conference on arranging a broad-based transitional government is the outcome of a pledge made at U.S.-brokered peace talks in London, which ended May 28 with the EPRDF takeover of Addis Ababa.

Twenty-five political factions are in Addis Ababa now hammering out the agreement on the country's future. They will have to overcome the traditional fears of Ethiopia's many ethnic groups of being dominated by any single tribal or political organisation.

The independence-minded Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the second largest rebel group, has declined to participate in a national transitional government.

ing five of 25 seats of a commission proposed by the guerrillas to form a future Afghan government.

But he said the major Sunni Muslim guerrilla groups based in Peshawar agreed to only three seats. He has met several guerrilla leaders in Peshawar during the past two weeks.

Some hardline Sunni guerrillas do not want to give representation to Shi'ites on a religious basis.

"We have given our ideas to Peshawar leaders, Mr. Mortazvi said. "We have no animosity with them. They themselves have problems within themselves."

But he said he hoped a consensus on the issue would be reached.

Mr. Mortazvi met Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad Sunday. An official statement quoted the president as calling for unity among the Mujahideen guerrillas and urging them to work for an early Afghan settlement.

A row over seats has also kept the Iran-based guerrillas out of the government-in-exile.

Mr. Mortazvi hinted his peace plan would mirror a U.N.-sponsored proposal calling for a transitional government, a ceasefire and elections.

But he said his proposal will have no role for President Najibullah or his government.

"We will never sit with Najibullah or include him in a government of Mujahideen," Mr. Mortazvi said.

The Associated Press reported Monday that neutral Switzerland had been asked to mediate the Afghan conflict.

As a high-ranking Swiss delegation shuttled from Moscow to Kabul to the Mujahideen headquarters in Pakistan, diplomats, government officials and the guerrillas said they were optimistic a plan to end the bloodiest and costliest conflict of the 1980s would be in place by January.

"This year, with the help of all, we hope to be able to put the process on the right track," said one negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the latest diplomatic initiative to find a solution to the war, the Swiss delegation headed by Mr. Klaus Jacob, the second-highest ranking official at the Swiss foreign ministry, was due to leave Kabul for Pakistan Tuesday evening, sources said.

The delegation was to talk with government officials in Islamabad before meeting with the guerrillas in Peshawar.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi parliament to ratify draft law on parties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's National Assembly (parliament) will meet in emergency session Wednesday to debate and ratify a law regulating a multi-party system, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) has reported. Parliamentary committees had discussed the draft of more than 30 articles and would refer their findings and recommendations to the assembly for debate and ratification, INA said late Monday. Iraqi officials have said the law on parties will ban late Monday. Iraqi officials have said the law on parties will ban three seats. He has met several guerrilla leaders in Peshawar during the past two weeks.

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As a high-ranking Swiss delegation shuttled from Moscow to Kabul to the Mujahideen headquarters in Pakistan, diplomats, government officials and the guerrillas said they were optimistic a plan to end the bloodiest and costliest conflict of the 1980s would be in place by January.

"This year, with the help of all, we hope to be able to put the process on the right track," said one negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the latest diplomatic initiative to find a solution to the war, the Swiss delegation headed by Mr. Klaus Jacob, the second-highest ranking official at the Swiss foreign ministry, was due to leave Kabul for Pakistan Tuesday evening, sources said.

The delegation was to talk with government officials in Islamabad before meeting with the guerrillas in Peshawar.

A row over seats has also kept the Iran-based guerrillas out of the government-in-exile.

Mr. Mortazvi hinted his peace plan would mirror a U.N.-sponsored proposal

Jordan, Japan review economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz Tuesday outlined to a representative of a Japanese economic agency the general state of Jordan's economy and the government's efforts to deal with it in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Fariz reviewed with Mr. Toshio Nakamura, vice president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the prospects for Japanese-Jordanian relations in a number of economic areas. JICA officially opens its new office in Amman today.

The JICA Jordan Office, as the new branch is to be known, will promote better relations and deeper mutual understanding between Jordan and Japan, officials said.

Dr. Fariz expressed Jordan's deep appreciation to Japan for its aid to the Kingdom in the form of equipment, training and volunteer work.

Jordan is looking forward to further cooperation with JICA through its new office and hopes to benefit from Japanese exper-



Ziyad Fariz

tise in the Kingdom's ongoing development programmes, he said.

Dr. Fariz said he hoped that the JICA would help Jordan export its industrial products to Japan and other countries.

The opening of the JICA office in Amman reflects Japan's deep interest in further cooperation with Jordan, Mr. Nakamura said. Accordingly, Japan will strive to develop its aid programmes to the Kingdom in all fields, he added.

Japanese aid agency opens office in Amman

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Japanese government agency whose main task is assisting the development of economies of Third World countries will officially open an office here Wednesday, according to an official of the agency.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hopes that the opening of its new office in Amman will promote better relations and a deeper mutual understanding between Jordan and Japan, said Mr. Kiyoshi Hirakawa, resident representative of the JICA Jordan Office.

"Because of the exchange of people from Japan and Jordan, we can know each other more," Mr. Hirakawa said.

The office will coordinate and help implement a variety of government-based technical cooperation programmes, ranging from technological transfers to conducting studies for the Jordanian government, Mr. Hirakawa said.

Although JICA has had a presence in Jordan for some time now, the opening of the Amman office further entrenches the agency as a major contributor and assistant to the Jordanian economy, Mr. Hirakawa added.

The values of JICA programmes to Jordan in 1988 and 1989 were \$8.4 million and 6.8 million respectively, according to Mr. Hirakawa. Final figures for 1990 were not available, he said.

The amount of assistance JICA provides to Jordan de-

pends on the number of requests the government submits to the agency, Mr. Hirakawa said.

"We are not allocating a specific budget to Jordan, but requests for aid are evaluated on a project to project basis," Mr. Hirakawa added.

Requests for assistance from JICA have and will continue to be conducted through official channels at the Japanese Embassy, Mr. Hirakawa said. The JICA office in Amman will serve to further coordinate requests and provide information about the organisation's activities.

Among the programmes the new office will be responsible for the Technical Training Programme, Expert Dispatch Programme, Provision of Equipment for Technical Cooperation, Project-Type Technical Cooperation, Development Studies, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Disaster Relief Aid and Cooperation.

Before the Gulf war, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Programme had 27 volunteers, mostly university students, in Jordan, Mr. Hirakawa said. Despite their evacuation during the crisis and the war, the volunteers have all since returned, he said. In addition, one new volunteer joined and four more are scheduled to arrive in Jordan in mid-July.

Volunteers have applied their skills in various organisations around Amman, including positions at area hospitals and at the Jordanian University, Mr. Hirakawa said.

PLO official laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Abdul Rahim Ahmad, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, who died Sunday was laid to rest in a Swiss, near Amman, Tuesday.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid to attend the funeral and to offer his condolences to the bereaved family. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein delegated Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Al Wayes to attend the funeral.

Taking part was Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayef, Abdul Rahim and other members of the PLO Executive Committee. Also in attendance was the commander of the Palestine Force in Jordan as well as members of the Palestine National Council (PNC). Leaders of Jordanian political parties and

professional unions were also present.

The body of Mr. Ahmad, 47, was wrapped in the Palestinian flag and carried to the mosque for prayers before it was buried. Mr. Ahmad, who ran the Amman-based Popular Organisations Department of the PLO, had been ill with cancer.

Born in the Palestinian village of Haditha, near Lod, he joined the ranks of Palestine freedom fighters as a teenager and formed the Arab Liberation Front with financial help from Iraq in 1970.

In 1982, the PNC elected him member of its Executive Committee, a 15-man decision-making body which is headed by PLO Chief Yasser Arafat.

King Hussein Monday telephoned Mr. Arafat expressing condolences over the passing away of Mr. Ahmad.

Week-long youth activities to benefit the local community

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 80 Jordanian scouts has embarked on a week-long programme of various activities and voluntary services benefiting the local community. The programme is prepared by the Ministry of Youth.

Having gathered at Al Hussein Youth Camp in Ajloun Monday, the scouts will take part in a programme that includes sports and cultural events as well as recreational functions in the camp, according to Ibrahim

Quteishat, director of youth affairs at the Ministry of Youth.

The scouts' gathering was the first part of a series of youth activities to be held in Ajloun involving young men and women from 42 youth centres in the Kingdom, Mr. Quteishat said.

As part of the programme, participants will hear lectures, take part in seminars and carry out clean-up activities around tourist and archaeological areas, he said.

Abbadi: Medical services at Bashir Hospital need upgrading

AMMAN (Petra) — Medical services offered by Al Bashir Hospital and ways for upgrading them were the focus of a meeting held at the hospital Tuesday chaired by Health Minister Mamoud Al Abbadi.

"Since its establishment Al Bashir Hospital has not witnessed sufficient improvements to cope with the growing number of patients and the population growth neither has there been an increase in the number of beds," the minister said at the meeting.

Dr. Abbadi said that the main burden in health services had been shouldered by the hospital doctors and the hospital staff.

"Al Bashir Hospital has been handling a burden far greater than it could shoulder due to the

lack of sufficient equipment and other means," the minister pointed out.

"For a doctor to conduct his work in an efficient manner, he should be at ease materially and psychologically, so that there will be no constraints that could impede health services," the minister added.

The minister voiced his view that doctors working at Al Bashir Hospital should be treated on equal footing with those working at the Jordan University Hospital and the hospital staff.

"Al Bashir Hospital has been handling a burden far greater than it could shoulder due to the

Yousef Issa presented a briefing to the meeting outlining the general services offered to the patients and a number of problems faced by the hospital administration and medical staff.

He noted in particular the crowded conditions at the hospital, due to the big number of out-patients and said that all the hospital's sections continually had to deal with a growing number of cases.

Heads of different sections also aired their views and mentioned a number of problems. They said that the pressure on the hospital could be greatly eased by promoting the primary health services at the integrated health centres in Jordan.

Minister says more efficient health personnel needed to reach health-for-all goal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Mamoud Al Abbadi Tuesday said that the shortage of efficient and well-trained personnel in the area of primary health care is to blame for any delay in achieving the health-for-all goal by the year 2000.

Mr. Abbadi said that the ministry had gone a long way on the path of implementing the health-for-all target by the year 2000 and had set up more than 507 health centres providing primary health care to date.

Addressing the opening session of a 10-day inter-country workshop for the Health For All Personnel, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in cooperation with the Health Ministry, Mr. Abbadi said that no country, however great its resources, could achieve its own health targets without involving

the society in formulating a health policy.

We stressed the need for turning the society from a "passive" recipient role to one of active participation" in implementing the health goals.

Dr. Abbadi said that the ministry had gone a long way on the path of implementing the health-for-all target by the year 2000 and had set up more than 507 health centres providing primary health care to date.

Speaking about the general objective of the workshop, Dr. Omar Imam, director of the Division of Health Systems Infrastructure at the WHO, said the workshop aimed at creating experts, capable of implementing the health-for-all target at the

national level.

To a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Imam pointed out that the development of health in any country demanded that such personnel be identified and found capable of realising the importance of achieving the health-for-all target.

Dr. Imam, who read Dr. Hussein Jezairis speech, the regional director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Speech, thanked Jordan for hosting the workshop and for its continued support of WHO activities.

Taking part in the workshop are 30 participants from Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Libya in addition to five experts from the WHO.

... education should transcend the stage of merely supplying knowledge to expanding a person's mind'

New private university to open

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new university is scheduled to open in Amman in the coming 1991-1992 academic year.

The Philadelphia University will concentrate on a new educational philosophy which believes that university education should transcend the stage of merely supplying knowledge to expanding the learning facilities and scopes in a person's mind.

Mrs. Leila Sharaf, a member of the university's board of trustees, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Mrs. Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, also said that the philosophy adopted by the Philadelphia University would aim at enabling students to develop a continued self-education process by promoting their personalities in all aspects of life, especially scientifically, spiritually, morally and creatively.

"We encourage our students to participate in discussions and to give their opinions freely, while respecting the other's point of view," Mrs. Sharaf said. "This is the basis of a true democracy, and should be taught in schools and universities," she added.

The new facility is a privately-owned university, with a JD 1.3 million capital coming from private donations and long-term banking loans.

Although the cost of registration has not yet been decided, Mrs. Sharaf said that it might range between 1,800 to 2,500 Jordanian Dinars.

According to Mrs. Sharaf, the university could accommodate between 800 to 1,000 students. The university will only accept a maximum of 500 students per semester in order to maintain a "good standard of education at the university."

During the press conference, Mrs. Sharaf also pledged to encourage student clubs and

athletics in an effort to strengthen and encourage extra curricular activities.

The Jordanian citizen is known to have special characteristics and that is why we should work at promoting our country so that it becomes the haven of culture and education in the Middle East," Mrs. Sharaf added.

The university's acceptance policy will be determined by laws set by the Higher Council for Education. Mrs. Sharaf stressed that a student's acceptance would not only take into account the high school examination (tawjih) grade, but will be based on other considerations too, such as the grades of the last three years in school.

"I don't think it is fair to

APPRECIATION

We, the Sri Lankan citizens in Jordan, sincerely extend our greetings to His Excellency Towfigh Abu Khalil on the occasion of his designation as the hon consul general of Sri Lanka in Jordan. We also express our gratitude to His Excellency the consul general and to the staff of the consulate of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka in Jordan, for the yeoman service and assistance that is rendered to our fellow-citizens, and specially to the refugees who came to the consulate for help and assistance.

J.F.S. Thomas
Leader of the Sinhala Fellowship of the Assembly of God Church in Amman
P.O.Box 184094, Amman-Jordan

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION KING ABDULLAH TEACHING HOSPITAL JUST TENDER NO. 005

Jordan University of Science and Technology has the pleasure of inviting international contractors to prequalify for the construction, completion and maintenance of the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital. The project consists of 15 floor cruciform tower block and horizontal low-rise buildings with an approximate area of one hundred thousand square metres to accommodate around 650 beds.

Applications for prequalification are obtained from University Tenders Board Secretary. The documents should be submitted to:

The Secretary General,
Central Tendering Committee,
Jordan University of Science and Technology,
Irbid-Jordan.

at or before 12 noon of Monday, September 2, 1991.

For further information, please contact:

The Director,
Department of Engineering Projects,

JUST

Telephone: 295111 ext.: 2953

Telex: 55545 JUST JO

Fax: 295123

Sit-in protests treatment of Palestinians in Israeli jails

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee in charge of following up on the state of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps staged a sit-in Tuesday at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) premises to protest the Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Taking part in the sit-in were some 400 people who shouted anti-Israeli slogans. Mr. Hassan Abdal Jawad, rapporteur of the committee, who has been deported from the occupied Arash territories, said the sit-in was a gesture of support for some 18,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons.

Mr. Abdal Jawad said that Palestinian prisoners and detainees were treated badly by the Israelis. He said that the Israeli occupation authorities had reduced the quantity of food served to prisoners and the materials used for personal hygiene.

He added that the Israelis had issued regulations banning visits to prisoners and detainees unless their relatives and families obtain prior permits to visit them.

A delegation representing the people taking part in the sit-in handed a memorandum to the ICRC delegate to forward it to the committee's headquarters in Geneva. The memorandum called on the ICRC to intervene immediately and put an end to the oppressive Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners.

The memorandum also stated dissatisfaction with the ICRC's silence over Israeli violations and encroachments in the occupied Arab territories.



Sit-in organised Tuesday at the International Committee of the Red Cross premises protests treatment of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Social Security regulations have to be fully enforced, Masri says

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri Tuesday circulated instructions to various government departments and public institutions calling on them to refrain from terminating the accounts of foreign firms that have completed projects in Jordan before first consulting with the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

All government departments

for which foreign companies had carried out projects should not end their association with these companies until a clearance is obtained from the SSC in accordance with stated regulations, according to the instructions from Mr. Masri.

Local and foreign firms and their employees are covered by the SSC law enacted in 1980.

A number of foreign firms have completed projects for government departments and public companies and have left the country without first obtaining clearance from the SSC, failing to pay applicable charges, according to the circular.

Such practices have created problems for the SSC and have hindered its work, the circular said.

Patricide gets death sentence

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian youth who stabbed his father to death has been sentenced to death by the martial court.

The father, who was blind, sought and won the alimony in court after his son refused to care for him.

bread-winner of the family, killed his father because he was being forced to provide him with JD 35 per month. The father, who was blind, sought and won the alimony in court after his son refused to care for him.

In order to relieve himself of the court-appointed debt, the youth stabbed the father with a meat knife as his father was doing ablution in preparation for performing Al Fajr prayer.

The youth, who was the only

survivor of the family, was sentenced to death by the martial court.

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C.) of Amman, Jordan plans to expand production capacity by 400,000 tonnes per year. The facilities will be located on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Sali, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200km

Toxic imperialists dump on Third World

By Neil de Mause

IN A FIELD in the remote rural district of Almadén, Spain, 11,000 tonnes of the world's industrial garbage lie rotting in a giant pit. The wastes — which include organic mercury compounds, some of the most toxic polyethylene liner to breach before they can infiltrate underground aquifers, poisoning the region's only supply of fresh water. The adjacent El Entredicho reservoir, which provides drinking and irrigation water to nearby villages, has already experienced a mass die-off of fish.

The wastes have been in this landfill since January. Before that, they were simply dumped above-ground, where they sat in corrugated barrels whose lids occasionally popped off, spilling their deadly contents onto the landscape.

In the lexicon of the international waste trade, this is known as "recycling."

By any other name...

"Almost every waste trade scheme that we see now uses a term like 'recycling,'" says Greenpeace organizer Jim Vallette. "Or 'residues-to-electricity' — a lot of them pose as electricity projects. Very, benign-sounding names. But the reality is the same: burning U.S. and European wastes elsewhere to make an easy buck."

Vallette is one of the staffers at Greenpeace's International Waste Trade Project who spend their days tracking — and battling — the growing world market in toxic wastes. The fifth edition of their yearly waste trade inventory details over 1,000 attempts to export tens of millions of tonnes of industrialized countries' waste to be burned, buried or otherwise dumped in the Third World.

The project's genesis dates back to the worldwide media attention drawn by the infamous "garbage barge" that wandered the globe in search of a dumpsite for its cargo of household waste from Islip, N.Y. A few months later, the freighter Khian Sea spent 27 months on a "similar journey with a hold full of ash from Philadelphia's garbage incinerator," turned down by 15 countries on five continents, the Khian Sea is believed to have dumped its cargo into the Indian Ocean.

In working to squelch these well-publicized schemes, Greenpeace activists "realized that there was a growing effort by waste traders to bring industry's wastes to foreign lands," says Vallette. "We pieced together a picture of dozens of schemes to ship wastes from the North to the South and from the West to the East. And that was when Greenpeace decided to launch a campaign against what we began calling the international waste trade."

While there are no hard figures, estimates of the amount of hazardous waste generated each year in the United States run into the billions of tonnes. Of this, the vast majority has always been disposed of at home, with a smattering destined for dumping in other countries, primarily across the Canadian border.

Trash for cash

But as the Environmental Protection Agency, in response to growing environmental activism in the United States, tightened restrictions on the dumping of hazardous waste at home, it also created new economic incentives for using the Third World as a dump site. Even with shipping costs and payments to the receiving countries, U.S. firms suddenly found, dumping wastes overseas could save up to 90 per cent over using the few U.S. dumpsites that could meet the tightened EPA standards. Perhaps more importantly, it offered freedom from the threat of liability. Once a load of waste was successfully exported, there was no longer any threat that the originating company would be forced to pay for cleanup costs or reimburse victims of the pollution.

As a result, the mid-1980s saw an ever-increasing flotilla of freighters and barges carting off trash from the industrialized world to Third World nations. Notices of intent to export hazardous wastes filed with the EPA leaped from 12 in 1980 to 522 in the first half of 1988, as established waste disposal firms were joined by international entrepreneurs who jumped at the opportunity to make, as one environmental activist observed, "fabulous profits without the risk of drug smuggling or running guns."

This boom was aided and abetted, say waste trade activists, by EPA regulations that provided easy loopholes for export schemes. While technically the EPA must authorize hazardous waste shipments, the agency's regulations allow the unregulated export of wastes not classified as

"hazardous," including municipal incinerator ash, household trash, infectious wastes and raw sewage sludge.

These are far from harmless substances, environmental activists stress — it is estimated that every tonne of garbage generated in the United States contains about 20 pounds of toxics. "(In-cherator) ash is really bad stuff — mercury, cadmium, lead," says Mike Williams of the Citizens Clearinghouse on Hazardous Waste. "And every time they test it, it comes out to a level that equals hazardous waste. But if the EPA treated it as hazardous waste, there'd be no place to put it, because there's not that many hazardous waste facilities."

Furthermore, even officially "hazardous" waste shipments require only that the EPA notify receiving countries of the export proposal. And with the money available for offering one's country as a disposal site, a mere "notification" may not carry much weight with cash-starved Third World governments, especially if corrupt officials can be bribed to look the other way. In one notorious instance, the tiny West African nation of Guinea-Bissau was offered a sum of money greater than its entire GNP in exchange for accepting shipments of toxic waste from Europe.

But even multimillion-dollar bribe was not enough to convince Guinea-Bissau to accept shipments openly labelled as toxic waste; instead, says Vallette, it is generally "political suicide" for a Third World government to be caught selling its land as a dump site. And so waste traders have come up with a raft of ingenious pseudonyms for their wares, such as:

- A West Coast firm approached the government of the Marshall Islands with an offer of 17,000 tonnes of Seattle household garbage, which the firm proposed for use as landfill to defend against rising sea levels caused by global warming. When this plan fell through, the firm tried instead to pawn off a load of used tyres for use as a reef.

- At one point, the Khian Sea was set to unload its cargo of ash in Haiti as "fertilizer," until Greenpeace intervened. In an attempt to prove the sceptical locals that the ash was safe, a company representative grabbed a handful and ate it.

- When the Panamanian government rejected a load of Philadelphia ash pawned off as roadfill — after having been tipped off by Greenpeace about the ash's toxicity — the Norwegian shipper hauled it off to the West African nation of Guinea for use as "raw building materials" for cinder blocks. The ash was finally returned to Norway after an unappreciative Guinean government arrested the Norwegian honorary consul general who had helped broker the deal and threatened to hold him until the waste was removed.

- But Greenpeace activists soon discovered that such shipments were only the tip of the iceberg compared to a more entrenched, insidious form of toxic imperialism: "recycling" plants that continue to process some of the most deadly substances produced by industry in the West.

- Heavy metal wastes — primarily lead, mercury and cadmium — have been produced in prodigious amounts by Western industry since the late 1980s, and have

been shipped to overseas smelters for almost as long. Today, they are one of the United States' top exports, with regular shipments of lead-lead used car batteries to Brazil helping make that country the United States' second-biggest waste trading partner. In Brazil, lead and zinc wastes have become such an important commodity that the government has actually lowered tariffs to encourage their import.

Despite recycling's clean image, these plants are no solution to the problem of industrial waste disposal, say environmentalists. Even the most efficient metal-recycling plants can't reclaim 100 per cent of the metal wastes, and the remaining toxic sludge must be dumped, often under less than ecologically sound conditions. This sludge also contains whatever metals were contained in the original waste material.

The trade in heavy metal wastes has increased as more and more smelters in the United States have refused to accept metals for recycling, particularly "dirty" wastes that contain high levels of extremely toxic organic compounds. As a result of tightened EPA regulations, half of all U.S. lead smelters were shutdown between 1980 and 1986. According to Greenpeace, smelters in countries like Brazil, India, China and Indonesia then picked up the slack.

The latest "sham recycler" to draw the project's ire is the facility run by Minas de Almadén y Arragen S.A., the Spanish state-run agency that is the world's largest supplier of mercury. In 1980, Minas de Almadén began offering to process industrial mercury wastes if the exporting companies would pledge to buy the reclaimed mercury. Dozens of companies in the United States and Europe — among them the new Jersey-based Cosan and Troy Chemicals and the European subsidiary of battery giant Duracell — took up the offer.

There was only one problem: No such recycling facility existed. Attempts were made to build one between 1984 and 1986, but a series of explosions and worker health problems caused Minas de Almadén to abandon the project. As a study by the Spanish national scientific institute described the situation in 1988, "the mercury wastes treatment plant does not permit the treatment of any type of waste that is found in Almadén at the present time."

Nonetheless, throughout this period the Spanish government was claiming that the recycling plant was up and running. And U.S. companies continued to certify to the EPA that the wastes would be "processed... for recovery of the mercury metal contained."

But the wastes continued to be stored exactly as they had been all along: in corrugated barrels that leaked their contents onto the soil so freely that digging in the gravel would produce a pool of liquid mercury. Some wastes, such as used batteries, were dumped directly onto the ground.

When Greenpeace began to investigate, Minas de Almadén hastily dug a new, "secure landfill" in a geologically unstable site; the barrels were simply crushed and earth spread over them. "As a result," Greenpeace's report notes, "unknown mixtures and reactions are likely to occur with unknown results."

Two other recently introduced bills hold somewhat more promise: Rep. Mike Synar, D-Oklahoma, and Rep. Howard Wolpe, D-Mich., have proposed requiring countries receiving U.S. wastes to meet this country's environmental

standards; and Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., with the backing of the Congressional Black Caucus, has proposed a total ban on toxic waste exports.

The effects of mercury poisoning run the gamut of horrors: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea, kidney damage, inflammation of mouth and gums, loosening of teeth, as well as loss of hearing, sight, smell and taste, and muscle spasms, personality changes, depression, nervousness, insanity and death. Deaths of fish and livestock and health problems among Almadén workers have already been reported.

What lies ahead may be presaged by the experience of Thor Chemicals' mercury waste recycling plant in Cato Ridge, South Africa, where two Thor workers reportedly "went mad" from mercury vapour poisoning after handling industrial wastes exported by American Cyanamid. A 1989 sample of muddy water from a river nearby the Thor plant revealed some of the highest levels of mercury pollution ever recorded.

"All hell would break loose if something like this were found in the U.S.," Michigan State University mercury expert Frank D'Itri told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch at the time. "This is gross contamination."

The EPA talks back

"Everyone thinks that waste export is such a big deal," says EPA international trade staffer Wendy Grieder. "There's this great perception that Third World countries are being dumped on. I'll tell you: we have no evidence."

Grieder argues that many of the most notorious schemes, such as the garbage barge, are unregulated cargo and so not representative of any illicit trade. In any case, she says, when the United States approves legislation ratifying the recent Basel Convention on international waste trade, this type of waste will require notification. As for reports of lax standards at Third World facilities, says Grieder, "We don't regulate overseas; that's a matter of sovereignty."

Grieder also dismisses Greenpeace's statistics as inflated. "If you look at their toxic waste inventory, a hell of a lot of those — and I happen to know, because I get the notices — a lot of those exports are very legitimate. Notice has been made, consent has been given, and it's going for a beneficial reason. It's going so that we don't have a throw it in a landfill here, and some commodity can be extracted from it."

Vallette is unfazed by such arguments. Implementation of the Basel Convention — a compromise measure passed by an international conference in 1989 after the United States torpedoed a stronger proposal — will indeed require the regulation of incinerator ash. But the regulations proposed by the Bush administration would, he notes, still exempt both sewage sludge and low-level radioactive waste, as well as many scrap metal exports, for the sake of "recycling."

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Bush threatens to go public

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Ariel Sharon was dedicating a new neighbourhood and Defence Minister Moshe Arens a new health clinic, both in West Bank Jewish settlements.

Mr. Bush indicated the United States would not further further aid to absorb Soviet immigrants in Israel to a cessation of settlement building. But he urged Israelis to "do what you can to see that the policy of settlement after settlement is not continued. It is counterproductive."

The Haaretz newspaper said the housing ministry had plans to move a total of another 500,000 Israelis to the occupied territories.

It said the housing was being

planned by a new unofficial body established by Mr. Sharon, called the "council for planning and construction" in the West Bank.

Mr. Sharon's spokesman Shaya Segal was quoted as saying "we are planning construction and expansion everywhere there are Jewish settlements."

Mr. Bush reiterated on Monday a standing U.S. policy which holds that settlement building in these areas are "counterproductive."

Mr. Bush was quoted recently as telling an American-Jewish delegation that the housing ministry had plans to move a total of another 500,000 Israelis to the occupied territories.

At the height of the fighting shells crashed down at a rate of up to 20 a minute. Intermittent shelling and machinegun fire could be heard from Sidon after Mr. Murr said the army had won.

Civilians in Sidon and the refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and Ain Al Hilweh, which house about 65,000 refugees, huddled in shelters during the battles. Hundreds risked their lives to flee the area in terror.

Troops bombardied Mich Mieh and came under fire from PLO positions nearby. Witnesses said a few shells hit Mich Mieh.

The PLO asked friendly groups in Sidon to intercede on its behalf. PLO headquarters in Tunis sent a message to the Arab League in Cairo asking it to intervene to stop the fighting.

Lebanese army

(Continued from page 1) dead included 15 Palestinians and three Lebanese soldiers. Forty Palestinians, mostly civilians, and 17 soldiers were among the wounded.

Zeid Wehbeh, Mr. Arafat's representative in Lebanon, earlier called for a ceasefire and talks with the government.

"It is a massacre against the Palestinian people ... we demand a ceasefire first and then dialogue to discuss all details. Otherwise we will defend ourselves," he told Reuters.

If the military pressure continues, every Palestinian woman and child will defend themselves and the camps," Mr. Wehbeh added.

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Algerian

(Continued from page 1)

The legislative balloting was postponed until later this year, and the government has pledged an early presidential election, which ordinarily would be held in 1993.

The FIS took control of a majority of Algeria's municipal councils in local elections last year — the country's first-ever multiparty elections. Some analysts have suggested the front was losing confidence in its prospects for winning the parliamentary elections and thus chose to disrupt the timetable.

Mr. Madani "is a liar who lives only by and for lies," Mr. Ghosn told Algerian reporters. He also said recent violence underscored the need for the state of emergency, imposed June 5 by President Chafiq Benjedid.

Inspectors

(Continued from page 1) the equipment which experts say could be used to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium.

It sent Mr. Blix, Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission set up under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire to scrap Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and U.N. Under-Secretary General Yasushi Akashi to Baghdad to take the message to the Iraqi government.

It warned that "any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences."

Mr. Ekeus, speaking before Mr. Blix and U.N. chief inspector David Kay returned from their site visit, said the three U.N. troubleshooters would leave Baghdad early Wednesday.

He and Mr. Akashi just had talks with Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi.

But after Mr. Blix returned the three prepared for further talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayr.

The IRS investigation stems from charges that Coffee Inc., a Miami, Florida-based firm owned by Mr. Bilbeisi, had violated American coffee quota restrictions.

Mr. Bilbeisi, who entered the international coffee market as a spot buyer in 1983, totally rejected such charges. "I have authenticated documents with dates and other details to prove that the particular consignment in question was shipped three

months after the American authorities lifted quota restrictions in February 1986," he said.

Also, "how can I offer bribes worth \$4.5 million (as said in Time) while the cost of the entire consignment was around \$3 million?" he asked.

The documents include a Guatemalan court ruling which found Mr. Bilbeisi was an unwitting victim of a coffee smuggling racket and acquitted him.

In any event, Mr. Bilbeisi said, the case is between the IRS and himself. "Even before the court hears the case and reaches a decision, it seems, Time has tried and convicted me," he said.

"I met with IRS people in London and they asked me to be a state witness against BCCI," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "The bank itself: How could I testify to something I don't know?"

Mr. Bilbeisi categorically challenged the Time assertion that he was acting as "a respectable front" for BCCI. Mr. Bilbeisi said neither he nor any of his immediate family was a member of the board of directors of the bank. "Nor have I received any kickbacks or dubious facilities from the bank," he said.

On the contrary, he said, "I have filed at least two cases against BCCI — of civil theft and vanishing transfers — and I am still pursuing one of them."

However, it is not for me to judge BCCI," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "My connections with the bank are strictly limited to my account."

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, 60, "the only truth in the Time story is that the American Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has filed a case against me."

But, he added, "actually there is no case. I have not evaded any American income tax as alleged. To report that IRS is investigating me and to give unfounded allegations about me and my business clearly point to a dedicated campaign to discredit me and undermine my claims with Lloyd of London."

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Falan keeps IBF crown

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Falan Lookmingkwan scored a unanimous decision over Abby Pohan of Indonesia Tuesday night and retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) mini-flyweight crown. The judges at Bangkok's Lumpini Stadium scored it 116-110, 115-111 and 116-114 for Falan in a generally lackluster 12-round bout. After the two felt each other out in the first round, Falan knocked Pohan to the canvas late in the second with a sweeping left hook, but the Indonesian was not hurt. Five uneventful rounds followed, with Falan boxing just well enough to gain the edge in each. In the eighth round, Falan landed several good shots to the head. Pohan returned the blows, but a solid right by Falan snapped his head back. The Indonesian kept advancing, but Falan scored with a solid series of punches just before the bell. Pohan was flat-footed when he answered the bell for round nine. Falan landed several solid punches and again sent Pohan to the canvas with several blows to the head. Both fighters appeared tired in the final two rounds, each lacking the power to stop the other.

Ferrari to race new car at French GP

IMOLA, Italy (R) — Struggling Ferrari have decided to take a gamble and race their powerful new 634 models in the French Grand Prix this weekend. Team technical director Claudio Lombardi said the cars would be raced by French pair Alain Prost and Jean Alesi at Magny-Cours after successful tests by Alesi. "We consulted each other, and we decided to use the new car. We were convinced by its bigger potential," he said. "We're going to the race knowing that we're running a bit of a risk," he said. Alesi cautioned: "We must be careful and not run too many risks in the trials because we don't have many spare parts." Reeling from a string of failures this season, the Italian team unexpectedly dismissed Formula One team chief Cesare Fiorio in May and brought in a new management triumvirate led by Piero Lardi Ferrari, son of the late Enzo Ferrari.

Fortuna sign Hungarian international

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch side Fortuna Sittard have signed Hungarian international defender Jozsef Szalma from Tatrabanja for three years, a Sittard official said Tuesday.

Dutch club appeals UEFA ban

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch soccer club BVV Den Bosch has appealed UEFA's three-season ban against it competing in European Cup play. "We think this is an absurd situation, contradicting the law," BVV Den Bosch Manager Chris Van De Laar said Monday. UEFA confirmed that the appeal had been filed. The Zurich-based Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) banned the Dutch national cup finalist because Den Bosch went to civil court to obtain a replay of the June 2 cup final's second half against Rotterdam club Feyenoord. Under UEFA regulations, clubs must settle soccer-related disputes exclusively through their national soccer authorities. The Royal Dutch Soccer Association had refused to order a replay. As a result of the sanction, Feyenoord was awarded the Dutch berth in next season's European Cup winners Cup. The court replay order, invalidating Feyenoord's 1-0 win, was issued because Rotterdam fans had poured onto the field and disrupted play several times during the second half. The replay had been postponed until July at the earliest.

Wimbledon ballgirl injured

WIMBLEDON (AP) A Wimbledon ballgirl was carried off court after twisting her ankle chasing a ball served by tennis star Andre Agassi. The fifth-seeded American sent his first serve out at 40-0 and 2-1 in the second set of his third round match against Dutchman Richard Krajicek. Natasha Tunks, 15, fell to the ground while fetching the ball. A packed no. 1 court saw Agassi go over to her to see if she was alright. Play was held up for two minutes while first-aid staff checked her injury then carried her off court. Neither player seemed to feel the injury's effect as Agassi continued to dominate the match. He saved three break points — the only ones the Dutchman had in the entire match — and went on to win 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Durand joins Marseille

PARIS (R) — International midfielder Jean-Philippe Durand will join Marseille from troubled Bordeaux, sources close to the French champions said Tuesday. Durand has agreed to play with Marseille for the next two seasons, the sources said. Bordeaux, France's top club in the 1980s, have been put into receivership and relegated to the second division.

Yugoslavs block Prosinecki move

MADRID (R) — The Yugoslav Football Federation has blocked the transfer of Red Star Belgrade midfielder Robert Prosinecki to Real Madrid. A telex message to the Spanish Football Federation said Prosinecki, 22, could not move to Madrid, even though his contract with Red Star had expired, because Yugoslav regulations barred footballers from playing abroad until they were 25. Prosinecki last week signed a contract for five seasons with Real in a deal personally engineered by Madrid President Ramon Mendoza. In reaction to the Yugoslav move, Mendoza would say only that internal problems in Yugoslavia were making it difficult to contact the relevant officials. Real Madrid are expected to ask Spanish football authorities to take the matter up on their behalf with FIFA.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SUIT

Both vulnerable, South deals:
NORTH
♦ K Q 10 8 3
A 6
K Q 10 5
+ 8 2
WEST EAST
♦ 6 5 ♦ 7 4
K Q J 9 3 8 5 1 2
7 3
+ 10 9 6 1 ♦ K Q J 3
SOUTH
A J 9 2
10 7
A J 8 4
+ A 7 5
The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 Pass
6 Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of
"In a tournament in our area," writes a reader, "several pairs manage to get to six spades on this hand. All went down one trick, for a poor score. Not a single pair reached the laydown contract of six diamonds. Is there a logical way to get there?"

Why does the major-suit slam fail while the minor-suit slam comes home? Playing in spades, North-South cannot avoid losing one heart trick, and the declarer can't cash a diamond suit, evenly divided between the two hands, declarer cannot obtain a discard. Playing in diamonds, declarer needs only a 3-2 trump split. After drawing trumps, declarer discards a heart in dummy's fifth spade and loses only one club trick. North knew this might be the case, thus, the decision to play in six diamonds.

Yes. The first three bids in the auction are self-explanatory. Once a major-suit fit has been found, a return to opener's minor suit is forcing, so North need do no more than

Edberg crushes McEnroe

LONDON (R) — Defending champion Stefan Edberg left John McEnroe's illustrious Wimbledon reputation lying in tatters on centre court as he steamed into the men's singles quarterfinals in straight sets Tuesday.

The Swede won 7-6 6-1 6-4 in two one-sided hours, maintaining his unblemished record at this year's championships. He has yet to drop a set in his four matches so far.

For McEnroe, three times champion in the early 1980s, it was a chastening experience. He battled gamely against the odds in the first set, but apart from a three-game burst early in the third, was merely a shadow of his former self.

French Open champion Jim Courier also eased through to the last eight, beating 14th seed Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia 6-3 6-2.

Edberg's tussle with McEnroe had appeared in advance to be a contest between the Swede's dripping-tap approach and whatever torrents of inspiration the 32-year-old American could still produce.

Yet in the first set on a

pleasant, sunny morning, neither player approached his usual standards and the expectant crowd found themselves watching a match of surprising restraint.

McEnroe was behind in every one of the first 12 games but hung on grimly to force a tie-break which always seemed likely to prove significant.

The world number one quickly went 5-1 up, helped by an McEnroe double fault, and kept cool to win it 7-4 after McEnroe had briefly recovered to 5-4.

Edberg's serve was proving impregnable and McEnroe was able to win only three points against it in a 22-minute second set as Edberg powered to a two-sets lead.

No one on centre court, where

Edberg had beaten the American in straight sets in their last meeting on grass in the 1989 semifinals, could envisage any semi-final defeat by Garrison 12 months ago.

Graf reaches semifinals

Women's top seed Steffi Graf

safely reached the semifinals for the fifth successive year, beating last year's losing finalist Zina Garrison 6-1 6-3.

The German dropped only

three points in the first three

games on her way to taking the

first set against the American

seventh seed in 25 minutes.

The second provided equally

few alarms as Graf made com-

fortable amends for her shock

semifinal defeat by Garrison 12

months ago.

Graf's opponent in the last four

will be American fifth seed Mary

Joe Fernandez who had a sur-

prisingly comfortable 6-2 7-5 win

over fourth-seeded Spaniard

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Men's number one Edberg

meanwhile admitted he felt in

good shape to clinch a third

Wimbledon title in four years.

"I played some very solid ten-

nis. Playing John is always hard

so I'm very happy to have won in

three sets," he said.

won six of the next seven games to wrap up his most satisfying victory of the tournament.

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Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close Date 2/7/1991	Tokyo Close Date 2/7/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6072	1.6133
Deutsche Mark	1.8307	1.8257
Swiss Franc	1.5685	1.5643
French Franc	6.1985	6.1828
Japanese Yen	138.45	138.50
European Currency Unit	1.1243	1.1257

USD per STD Euro, Opening & close rate, Gmt

International currency rates, London Date: 2/7/1991

Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.37	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.25	11.00	10.81	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.12	9.18	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.75	7.75	7.81	7.56
French Franc	9.56	9.56	9.56	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.50	7.53	7.50	7.43
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.87	10.00	9.87

Intercapital bid rates, for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	Date: 2/7/1991
Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm ^a	Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm ^a

Gold 368.25 7.00 Silver 4.44 .10

24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 2/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1065	1.1120
Deutsche Mark	.3760	.3779
Swiss Franc	.4388	.4410
French Franc	.1111	.1117
Japanese Yen ^b	.4967	.4992
Dutch Guilder	.3339	.3356
Swedish Krona	.1042	.1047
Italian Lira ^c	.0506	.0509
Belgian Franc	.1840	.1849

^aPer 100

Other Currencies Date: 2/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.8050	1.8300
LebANESE Lira ^d	.0755	.0770
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000
Omani Riyal	.17700	.17850
UAE Dirham	.17860	.1870
Greek Drachma ^e	.3430	.3495
Cypriot Pound	1.3790	1.3990

^bPer 100

CAB Indicies for Amman Financial Market

Index	30/6/1991 Close	1/7/1991 Close
All-Share	112.55	112.85
Banking Sector	107.05	107.19
Insurance Sector	118.03	118.15
Industry Sector	118.34	118.85
Services Sector	129.80	130.69

^fDecember 31, 1990 = 100

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed easier following Monday's 818-point leap. The Nikkei Index slipped 113.00 points to 23,995.76.

SYDNEY — Prices rose to an eight-week high after strong gains on overseas markets. The All Ordinaries closed at 1543.2, up 21.2 points.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher but off day's highs after advances were trimmed by profit-taking. The Hang Seng was up 34.06 points to 3,772.91 at the close.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed after profit-taking pared early gains in quiet trading. The Straits Times gained 13.40 points to close at 1,512.13.

BOMBAY — Export-oriented shares rallied but others fell after Monday's devaluation of the rupee. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index closed 18.44 points up at 1,293.67.

Bid to tax Queen Elizabeth sparks right royal row

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth, the world's richest woman, is facing the prospect of being asked to pay tax on her substantial private wealth.

A bill calling for her to pay tax — to be introduced in Britain's parliament Wednesday by Mr. Simon Hughes, a member of the minority Liberal Democrat Party — has little chance of becoming law.

But the issue of whether the queen should pay the tax like the majority of her subjects has brought the question of the royal fortune sharply into the public eye.

Even fervent royalists concede there is a case for taxing the queen's private wealth, variously estimated at between £1.2 and £6.7 billion (\$1.9 and \$10.7 billion).

Columnist Sir John Junor, knighted by the queen after his long editorship of the fiercely pro-monarchist Sunday Express, wrote a piece in the equally royalist Mail on Sunday newspaper headlined "Pay up, ma'am."

"The queen is far too intelligent to be unaware of the increasing public disquiet over the fact that on her private fortune she pays no income tax," said Mr. Junor.

According to the Sunday Times, advisers have warned the queen that she might have to sell Balmoral, the royal family home in Scotland, if she has to pay tax.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said he was unaware of any such warning having been issued in public.

Had it been made in private? "It might. But we are in the realms of speculation," he said.

Queen Elizabeth has a breathtaking fortune including tens of thousands of acres (hectares) of land and a massive portfolio of shares.

She has several hundred Leonardo da Vinci drawings, dozens of Dutch and Italian paintings, antiques which require a 75-volume catalogue, a 330-volume stamp collection and things."

Opinion polls have shown that as many as eight out of 10 people believe the queen should pay tax on her private income.

But there is a staunch rump of royalists who believe the suggestion is little short of lese majeste.

As novelist Terence Blacker put it: "The queen doesn't pay tax for the same reason as she doesn't fill in the census form, vote in elections or take her driving test. She's above such



Queen Elizabeth

jewels that include more than 20 tiaras.

Under an agreement last July, the queen receives an inflation-proof income from the state until the year 2000. For 1991 the payment is £7.9 million (\$12.6 million).

The money is to cover the cost of her official duties and most goes in paying wages of countries and royal servants.

It does not cover the upkeep of royal palaces or the royal yacht Britannia, the queen's flight of aircraft or the royal train.

It is generally assumed that the British royal family has never paid taxes, but author Philip Hall says in a book to be published later this year that King George VI secured tax immunity from the government only as recently as the 1930s.

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Study expects zero growth in world economy this year

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Recession in the Soviet Union and East Europe was the biggest factor in the stagnation in the world's economy this year, according to a U.N. report released Tuesday.

The U.N. world economic survey predicts only a modest recovery in 1992, with worldwide economic growth of about two per cent.

"The world's economy is not likely to grow at all in 1991" largely due to the plunge in the former East Bloc countries, whose economies declined six per cent in 1990 and are projected to drop 10 per cent this year, the survey said.

The authors of the survey urged the major industrial democ-

racies to increase their output growth, currently held to two or three per cent, to resume "their historic role as an engine of world economic growth."

Without more output and spending by the United States and other major industrial nations, "the more dynamic international economic environment needed for a shorter adjustment in the developing countries and a less costly transition in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will not materialise," it said.

Although the Gulf crisis sapped the economies of Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and a few other countries, it had little overall effect on the world's fortunes, according to the survey by the U.N. Department of Economic

and Social Affairs.

Crude oil production rose in 1990 to 60.3 million barrels per day, the highest since 1979. The survey predicts that increased demand may result in the oil market tightening in the future.

Growth in the developing world slowed for the third year in a row to three per cent, and actually sank into minus territory in Latin America.

The sub-Saharan Africa, the population growth rate outstripped the economic growth rate, except in Nigeria. For Africa as a whole, a 1990 growth rate of 3.4 per cent barely kept ahead of the birth rate.

South Korea and Malaysia, with growth rates of about 10 per cent in 1990, led south and east

Asia to a regional expansion of over six per cent collectively.

Except for oil, commodity prices fell to their lowest levels since the depression of the 1930s, measured in terms of their ability to purchase manufactured exports of the industrial countries.

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union saw the worst economic plunge since World War II, with the Soviet Union experiencing a four per cent fall in output, with the rate accelerating by the end of the year.

The eastern European nations as a whole shrank by 11 per cent. Poland, Bulgaria and the former East Germany suffered recessions on the order of 13 per cent.

Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi Tuesday dismissed the central bank chief's predictions that radical monetary reforms were imminent.

Mr. Habibi said that gold will continue to guarantee the value of the Iranian rial and a complex, multiple exchange rate for the currency would remain in force.

The radio report, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Habibi as saying plans to set a single, floating exchange rate would not be applied in the near future.

Mr. Habibi's remarks at his weekly press briefing shot down comments made Thursday by Mr. Mohammad Hossein Adeli, head of the central bank.

Mr. Adeli had said that the three-tier exchange rate for the rial would be abolished.

Iran uses various exchange rates which are used for different types of transactions.

The official value of the rial is pegged at about 70 to the U.S. dollar. But this bears no relation to its real economic value.

Mr. Adeli had also said that the one-bedroom apartment for rent

for rent

A furnished apartment in Abdoun, consisting of one large bedroom, living-dining room, modern kitchen and bathroom. Separate entrance, private garden, central heating and telephone.

Call tel: 817765

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT

Villa in Abdoun for rent at Sa'ad Zaghloul St., close to Jordan Supermarket.

For further information, please contact the owner.

Tel. no. 6

Yeltsin claims state property for Russia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris M. Yeltsin said he plans to transfer most of the property in Russia now under central government control to the republic itself.

Mr. Yeltsin, in interviews published Tuesday, also said he had reservations about a draft union treaty defining the Soviet republics' relations with Moscow, but would sign the document.

The draft accord, initialised by nine republics last month, is being considered by republican governments.

Interviewed by several Soviet news agencies during a visit to Siberia, Mr. Yeltsin said he opposed a provision in the treaty which allows the central government to collect taxes directly from citizens in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin favours allowing the republic to collect taxes, and then handing over a portion of the money to Moscow.

One key issue under debate is whether property will be under republican control.

In claiming state property for Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said land used for industries, including railroads and defence, would remain under central government jurisdiction, the news agencies reported.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has said he hopes the union treaty will be signed this month, but several republics are unlikely to meet the deadline.

The Ukrainian parliament voted last Thursday to delay dis-

cussion of the treaty until September to allow experts to assess whether its terms contradicted the republic's declaration of sovereignty issued last year.

Six of the 15 republics — Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova — refuse to have anything to do with the treaty, saying they want independence.

Belarus and Kirghizia have approved the draft, but most other republics have demanded major amendments.

Turkmenia, the Soviet republic thought most loyal to the Kremlin, is showing signs of a political independence likely to hamper Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to bind the nation with the new union treaty.

"We don't think the union treaty will be signed for a long time," Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov said in an interview Monday.

"It's very ambiguous," he said of the proposed new document to be signed by the 15 republics together.

Mr. Niyazov, long counted as a Gorbachev ally, also said Kremlin leaders should not have the right to levy taxes or to reap excessive profit from the Central Asian republic's rich natural gas reserves or cotton harvest.

"They have been stealing from us for years," Mr. Niyazov told the Associated Press. "It's just pure theft."

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed surprise at Mr. Niyazov's

statements, which seemed to allay him more closely with Mr. Yeltsin than with Mr. Gorbachev on key union treaty issues.

Mr. Niyazov and leaders of the other three Central Asian republics previously backed Mr. Gorbachev in debates surrounding the union treaty.

Mr. Niyazov's comments also might surprise many of the 3.6 million residents of arid Turkmenia, which borders the Caspian Sea to the west and Iran and Afghanistan to the south.

One of the poorest of the Soviet republics, Turkmenia is famous for its blistering Karakum Desert, its horsemen, red carpets, and isolation from the political drama that has shaken much of the Soviet Union since Mr. Gorbachev came to power six years ago.

Many Turkmenians seem content with isolation. Some peddlers at the rug bazaar on the outskirts of Ashkhabad say they have never heard of the United States.

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Boris Yeltsin

Mandela says constitutional talks likely 'sooner rather than later'

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela told his African National Congress (ANC) Tuesday that it must be prepared to hold constitutional talks with the white-led government "sooner rather than later."

Mandela, speaking on the opening day of the ANC national conference, made clear the ANC would have to negotiate its way into power rather than return to a now-suspended armed struggle.

"Despite our own heroic efforts we have not defeated the regime," Mandela told more than 2,000 delegates in the Indian Ocean city of Durban.

"We see negotiations as a continuation of the struggle leading to our central objective: The transfer of power to the people."

Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, is expected to replace the ailing Oliver Tambo as president of South Africa's opposition party.

Mandela said that some whites

do not support De Klerk's reforms and accuse the security forces of involvement in some of the killings to an effort to under-

mine peace efforts.

"That is precisely why there has been the escalation of public violence," he said. "It was not because we were failing that they decided to shoot the people down. It was exactly because we are succeeding."

Nonetheless, Mandela said he was confident that all leading political parties could soon meet to discuss a non-racial constitution, featuring the free distribution of one million condoms.

"We must calculate on the con-

gress taking place sooner rather than later," he said.

De Klerk legalised that ANC last year after a 30-year ban, but it has been beset by problems, many of them related to its poor organisational skills.

De Klerk has captured the political momentum with his sweeping race reforms, while the ANC battles to transform itself from a Zulu-based organisation.

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